

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

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TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 21 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX

1. SYNDICATED COLUMNIST MARQUIS CHILDS, IN FEB. 21 COLUMN
IN WASHINGTON POST, SAID RESPONSIBLE HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS,
IN FRANK AND PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS, EXPRESS DOUBT THAT SALT
TWO AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED THIS YEAR. AMONG FACTORS
CITED ARE "CONSTANTLY INCREASING" SOVIET-CUBAN INVOLVEMENT
IN HORN OF AFRICA, AND "OTHER AND PERHAPS EQUALLY COMPEL-
LING REASONS" SUCH AS SOVIET DEVELOPMENT OF KILLER SATEL-
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LITE AND DISPUTED REPORTS THAT USSR IS ENCRYPTING ITS
SATELLITES, WHICH "PUTS HEAVY BURDEN ON RIGHT OF SURVEIL-
LANCE GRANTED UNDER SALT ONE." REGARDING SALT NEGOTIATIONS
IN GENEVA, CHILDS SAID WARNKE IS "SKILLED AT THIS THANKLESS
JOB," BUT HIS SOVIET COUNTERPART HAS "NO REAL POWER OF
DECISION AT NEGOTIATING TABLE." SALT, CHILDS SAID, IS
SLOW PROCESS. "MORE IMPORTANT IS PRESENT BALANCE IN NEGO-

TIATING SCALES," CHILDS CONTINUED. "ONE OF PIVOTAL FIGURES IN NEGOTIATING PROCESS PUT IT THIS WAY: WE HAVE MADE ALL CONCESSIONS WE CAN POSSIBLY MAKE. IT IS NOW TO BE DETERMINED WHETHER OTHER SIDE CAN MOVE. WE DO NOT KNOW." ONSET

"WITH DIE-HARD OPPOSITION ALREADY ENGENDERED, NO ADMINISTRATION WOULD THROW SUCH CONTROVERSY INTO SENATE ON EVE OF AN ELECTION. PHILOSOPHIC VIEW IS THAT AN AGREEMENT SIGNED EVEN AS LATE AS SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER CAN GO OVER TO NEXT SESSION OF CONGRESS. IF THAT SEEMS SLIGHT HOPE, AT LEAST IT IS HOPE."

2. RICHARD BURT OF NEW YORK TIMES SAID ALTHOUGH CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S ARMS CONTROL POLICY HAS YET TO RESULT IN ANY NEW ACCORDS, THERE HAS BEEN "PROLIFERATION" OF ARMS CONTROL INITIATIVES THAT "SEEM TO OUTPACE SPREAD OF WEAPONS THEY SEEK TO CURB." THESE EFFORTS HAVE SUPPORT OF ARMS CONTROL ADVOCATES, BURT POINTED OUT, BUT SOME OBSERVERS IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT HAVE BEGUN TO EXPRESS MISGIVINGS OVER PACE AND SCOPE OF ADMINISTRATION'S PROGRAM. "CHIEF CONCERN IS THAT HAVING SET SUCH AN AGENDA, ADMINISTRATION FINDS ITSELF UNDER GUN TO REACH AGREEMENTS THAT MIGHT NOT BE IN BEST INTERESTS OF WEST." BURT SAID WARNKE ARGUES THAT STAKES IN TALKS ARE SO HIGH THAT NEITHER SIDE WOULD SIGN AN AGREEMENT THAT PLACED IT IN POSITION OF STRATEGIC INFERIORITY. "BUT THIS ASSUMES THAT ADMINISTRATION

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STRATION HAS COHERENT, OVER-ALL IDEA OF WHAT IT EXPECTS TO ACHIEVE FROM ALL OF ITS TALKING. SOME EXPERTS QUESTION WHETHER IT DOES AND ASSERT THAT IN RAISING ARMS CONTROL TO NEW FOREIGN POLICY PEDESTAL, ACHIEVING NEW AGREEMENTS HAS BECOME AN END IN ITSELF."

3. BALTIMORE SUN SAID INDIAN OCEAN TALKS ENDED FEB. 17. IT SAID, "U.S. OFFICIALS WERE QUOTED LAST WEEK AS SAYING TWO SIDES WERE TRYING TO DEFINE PRECISE BOUNDARIES OF INDIAN OCEAN, DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PORT CALLS AND TEMPORARY NAVAL BASES, AND DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRANSIT VOYAGES AND STATIONING OF FLEETS." DISPATCH SAID U.S. OFFICIALS WERE QUOTED LAST WEEK AS SAYING SOMALIA'S DECISION TO DENY SOVIET NAVY USE OF PORT FACILITIES AT BERBERA "HAS NOT LED TO CONSIDERATION THAT U.S. GIVE UP ITS NAVAL FACILITY ON MID-INDIAN OCEAN ISLAND OF DIEGO GARCIA."

4. NEW YORK TIMES PUBLISHED ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH FROM MOSCOW REPORTING THAT USSR HAD RENEWED ITS ATTACK ON AMERICANS WHO WANT TO MODIFY PROPOSED SALT AGREEMENT. YURI KORNILOV, LEADING TASS COMMENTATOR, ASSERTED THAT SUCH EFFORTS WERE "AIMED AT GUARANTEEING U.S. CLEAR

ADVANTAGES TO DETRIMENT OF SOVIET UNION." KORNILOV SAID AMERICAN NEGOTIATORS HAD SHOWN "ELEMENTS OF FLEXIBILITY AND REALISM" SO FAR IN SALT NEGOTIATIONS, BUT THEIR EFFORTS WERE THREATENED BY PENTAGON, NATO AND AMERICAN ARMS MANUFACTURERS.

5. WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT BRITAIN, IN ITS ANNUAL WHITE PAPER ON BRITISH DEFENSE PLANS, SAID USSR'S MILITARY MIGHT GOES "WELL BEYOND NEED OF PURELY DEFENSIVE" PURPOSES WITH CAPABILITIES IN EUROPE AND AFRICA THAT ARE "FORMIDABLE AND GROWING." WHITE PAPER ESTIMATED THAT IN EUROPE, WARSAW PACT NATIONS ALREADY HAVE MORE THAN TWO-AND-ONE-HALF TIMES AS MANY TANKS, GUNS AND PLANES AS WEST, AND THAT THESE FORCES ARE BEING STRENGTHENED CONTINUOUSLY. "BEYOND UNCLASSIFIED

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EUROPE, RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA... HAVE SHOWN THAT SOVIET UNION IS READY AND ABLE TO DEPLOY MILITARY RESOURCES RAPIDLY IN SUPPORT OF ITS POLITICAL INTERESTS IN THIRD WORLD." IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, POST REPORTED, NATO SECRETARY GENERAL JOSEPH LUNS WARNED OF INCREASINGLY BOLD ACTIVITIES BY USSR OUTSIDE TREATY AREA, NOTABLY IN AFRICA. VANCE

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